AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn). A method to purify autoantibodies from therapeutic intravenous immunoglobulin preparations (IVIg) using affinity chromatography on a ligand bound to a solid support.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the autoantibodies are selected for reactivity with soluble proteins of human serum.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the ligand used for affinity chromatography is composed of a mixture of proteins present in human serum other than IgG.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the ligand used for affinity chromatography is composed of purified individual serum proteins.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the ligand used for affinity chromatography is composed of animal proteins or other molecules which can be recognized by the autoantibodies.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the purified individual serum proteins comprises ferritin.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the solid support used for affinity chromatography is Sepharose or an equivalent thereof.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, which further comprises a step of recovering non-autoreactive antibodies for further processing in a flow-through fraction of the affinity chromatography column.

Claim 9 (Currently amended). Autoantibodies isolated from therapeutic intravenous immunoglobulin preparations (IVIg), comprising substantially purified autoantibodies capable of forming autoimmune complexes in human serum, wherein said autoantibodies are highly enriched ferritin-binding antibodies.

Claim 10 (Currently amended). The autoantibodies of claim 9, wherein the autoimmune complexes are capable of binding to ~~and activating~~ complement in human serum.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn). The use of autoantibodies of claim 10 for the preparation of a medicament in the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn). A method for the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders in a patient, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of autoantibodies of claim 10 to said patient.

Claim 13 (Original). A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders in a patient, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of autoantibodies of claim 10 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn). An autoantibodie-free therapeutic intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) preparation, which is substantially free of autoantibodies.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn). A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of immunodeficiency in a patient, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of an autoantibodies-free therapeutic intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) of claim 14.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn). The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, which further comprises a protein.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn). The use of autoantibodies-free IVIg of claim 14 for the preparation of a medicament in the treatment of immunodeficiency.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn). A method for the treatment of immunodeficiency in a patient, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of an autoantibodies-free IVIg of claim 14 to said patient.

Claim 19 (New). The autoantibodies of claim 9, wherein the autoantibodies are at least 20-fold more reactive for ferritin than the therapeutic intravenous immunoglobulin preparation.

Claim 20 (New). The autoantibodies of claim 9, wherein the autoantibodies are produced by affinity chromatography of IVIg on a ligand bound to a solid support and wherein the ligand is IgG-depleted serum proteins or ferritin.

Claim 21 (New). The autoantibodies of claim 9, wherein the autoantibodies are produced by a method comprising:

a) preparing an insoluble support onto which is grafted soluble proteins from human serum depleted of IgG;

b) absorbing autoantibodies capable of forming autoimmune complexes with said soluble proteins; and

c) eluting the autoantibodies retained bound to the support, so as to collect a fraction highly enriched in ferritin-binding antibodies.